

## Obituary

### DR. W. H. B. AIKINS

Dr. W. H. B. Aikins died on Thursday, October 2nd. By his death Toronto loses a practitioner who has always been prominent in the medical activities of the city, and one whose interest and assistance in medical and journalistic matters will be greatly missed. Born in Peel County in 1859, Dr. Aikins was one of a family that has given much to the service of Canada; many of them have stood high in the ranks of our profession. His father, the Honorable J. C. Aikins, was Secretary of State in the Government of Sir John A. MacDonald, and Sir James Aikins, his brother, is well-known as the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba. The late Moses Henry Aikins, an uncle of the late doctor was a practitioner of exceptional experience and knowledge, and there are many to-day who remember well the surgical teachings of William Thomas Aikins, another uncle, who ably filled, for many years, the chair of surgery in the Toronto School of Medicine.

Dr. W. H. B. Aikins was educated at Upper Canada College, and at the University of Toronto, and later studied in New York, London, Edinburgh, Paris

and Vienna; he began to practise in Toronto in 1884, and was at various times consulting physician to the Toronto General Hospital, to the Toronto Hospital for Incurables and to the King Edward Sanitarium.

In latter years his interest in radium cultivated by investigation abroad led him to the establishment of the Radium Institute, and he was the first in Ontario to speak authoritatively on the treatment of disease by radium; many papers contributed by him to the Radiological Association show the extent and thoroughness of his work.

Dr. Aikins was a member of both the Canadian and Ontario Medical Associations, a past president of the American Radium Society; for many years he had acted as secretary for Canada of the International Medical Congresses which met in Lisbon, Budapest and London.

As senator of Toronto University representing the graduates in medicine, Dr. Aikins has always enjoyed the confidence of those whom he represented. He was keenly interested in all that had to do with the progress of his many asso-

ciations, was an active and loved practitioner, and possessed those social qualities which endeared him to a large circle of his co-workers.



DR. W. H. B. AIKINS

**Dr. John Murphy**, of St. John's, Newfoundland, died on September 18th, at the early age of thirty-two years.

Dr. Murphy was a graduate of London, England, and had only been in practice at St. John's for five years, specializing in gynaecology, in which he was eminently successful. His pleasing gentle manner ingratiated him with all whom he came in contact, and it was a great tribute to the unity of the profession in St. John's how they rallied around his bedside in his last illness. Stricken suddenly with an ascending paralysis, the muscles of respiration became paralyzed, and for seven days his medical brethren continued artificial respiration, one relieving another night and day until the end came. He remained conscious all through his illness, and it was deeply touching, the gratitude he tried to express to those who were working so hard to prolong his life.

Never before has St. John's been so stirred by a death in the medical profession. Cut down in early manhood, leaving a wife and three small children, the circumstances surrounding the illness appealed to all, and found expression in the largest funeral procession ever known in St. John's.

**Dr. F. W. E. Wilson** died at Niagara Falls on September the 23rd. Dr. Wilson was born at Mitchell,

Ontario, fifty years ago, and had practised in the Niagara peninsula for many years. He was keenly interested in all local affairs, had been president of the County Conservative Association, and of the Rotary and Canadian Clubs in that district. An earnest student of medicine, he had studied in many countries since his graduation. At the outbreak of the war Dr. Wilson left his practice for military service overseas, and on arrival in England was appointed D.A.D.M.S., later he became A.D.M.S. of the Canadian training services with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He served in the field as medical officer of the 50th Battalion, and subsequently was posted to the command of the medical services of the Canadian Forestry Corps. In recognition of his war services he was decorated as a C.B.E. and was twice mentioned in the despatches. Dr. Wilson is survived by his wife, a daughter of the late Right Honorable John Ferguson, and by two children.

**Dr. Charles Woollard** died in Vancouver on September 22nd from blood poisoning aggravated by war injuries. He was born in England, and came to Canada when a young man of nineteen, and after working for a time on a farm decided to go in for medicine and entered Manitoba Medical College in 1897. In 1900, when the South African War broke out, he volunteered and

went overseas with the Canadian Artillery. He was wounded in the arm and returning to Winnipeg, finished his medical course, and became an interne in the Winnipeg General Hospital. He started practice in Winnipeg but owing to ill health took a position as ship's surgeon on the boats sailing between Vancouver and Australia. After two years of life at sea, he went home to England, and in nine months was able to take the London qualifications of M.R.C.S., and L.R.C.P. He returned to Canada and started to practice in Vancouver. On the outbreak of the war he joined the C.A.M.C., and on arrival in London was selected for the headquarters military medical staff in London where he was highly thought of as a dependable officer. He held the rank of lieutenant-colonel. When the Vancouver Military Hospital was organized he became its first commanding officer, being asked to return from the scene of conflict to take up this important post, which he only relinquished when it came under the direction of the S.C.R. He subsequently was appointed one of the local medical officers of the Board of Pension Commissioners. Of a retir-

ing nature, he was highly respected by his confrères, and also by the numbers of ex-soldiers with whom he came into contact. In spite of the many rebuffs due to ill-health he was always cheerful, and absolutely honourable. Dr. Woollard leaves a wife and two little girls, besides a large circle of close friends.

**Dr. A. McLaren** died in London, Ontario on September the 22nd. Dr. McLaren was well known in London and had been a coroner in that city for many years.

**Dr. Orville Winthrop McMichael**, a graduate of the University of Toronto, died in Chicago on October the 2nd. Dr. McMichael was born in Toronto, and graduated with a B.A. degree in 1891, and from the Niagara University Medical College and Hahneman Medical College in 1895. Dr. McMichael had worked entirely on the treatment of tuberculosis, and was one of the first to make use of the operation of induced pneumothorax.

**A Simple Remedy for Senile Pruritus.**—Dr. Francis Veress, lecturer on dermatology at the University of Cluj, writes that the troublesome itching to which many persons advanced in years are subject is a condition which so far has proved refractory to every kind of treatment, both external and internal. This failure to relieve has been explained on the assumption that the symptom is due to senile changes in the deeper layers of the skin or in the sensory nervous apparatus. Dr. Veress states, however, that the itching is almost invariably relieved by rubbing the skin over the pruriginous area with a soft brush for from twenty to twenty-five minutes two or three times daily. After a few days, a single application of the brush before going to bed suffices to avert its recurrence. The brushing removes much epithelial debris, the presence of which is the cause of itching; but it is important to avoid the use of a hard brush, which is apt to intensify the cutaneous irritation. It is well to swab the surface, after brushing, with pure spirit or cologne water, allowing to dry by evaporation, and when this application is not well borne, to use hydrous wool fat or petrolatum. The treatment, of course, is not as radical as the application of roentgen rays, but it appears to provide the means for mitigating and controlling an otherwise intractable condition.

**Diet and Growth.**—G. Mouriquand, P. Michel, and L. Barre (*Journ. Méd. de Lyon*, February 20th, 1924, p. 95) review the present state of

knowledge of the nutritional factors of growth as follows: An adequate diet for a growing child must provide (a) a sufficient number of calories; (b) the three categories of foodstuffs—protein, fat, and carbohydrate; (c) certain amino-acids which are indispensable for the formation of new tissues ("aliments plastiques"); (d) accessory food factors—that is, vitamins and mineral salts. The number of calories required per kilo of body weight is highest in infancy and gradually decreases with age. For a breast-fed child the number is put at 90, for one artificially fed at 100. When the age of two years is reached the number of calories required for health has gone down to 67 per kilo body weight; by the age of five it is reduced to 62; at ten it is 54; at fourteen, 48; and in the adult it is about 37. A certain balance must be maintained between the quantities of protein, fat, and carbohydrate, each element being necessary to the most advantageous employment of the other two by the body. The proteins furnish material for the formation of new tissue, but are not all of equal value. The amino-acid groups, lysin, tryptophane, cystine, arginine, histidine, are all necessary for sustenance and growth, and a protein like gelatin, which does not contain these groups in its molecule, cannot further growth, and can only be utilized by the body when these groups are provided by other proteins. The proteins of milk contain all the necessary amino-acid groups.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*, July 19, 1924.